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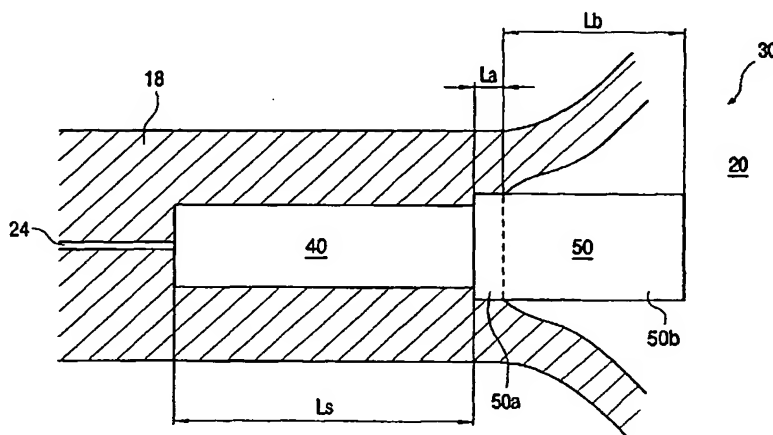
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(54) Title: DISCHARGE LAMP



(57) Abstract: A discharge lamp (10) is disclosed with a closed discharge vessel (20) which is surrounded by a wall of transparent material. Two electrodes (30) are present, partly embedded in the wall and projecting into the interior of the discharge vessel (20). At least one, but preferably both electrodes (13) are elongate in shape and comprise a head part (50) and a shaft part (40), which are distinguished by different diameters and/or different materials. Tungsten is preferred for the head part (50) and a tungsten-rhenium alloy for the shaft part (40). The shaft part (40) is enclosed in the wall material, usually quartz, whereas of the head part (50) only a first, short portion (50a) is in contact with the wall, while its second, longer portion (50b) projects into the interior of the discharge vessel (20). Favorable diameters for the head part (50) were found to be 350 to 450 μm , and for the shaft part (40) 150 to 400 μm . A long lamp life is achieved with the electrode design according to the invention, in particular in thermally strongly loaded discharge lamps as preferred for automotive applications. There are additional advantages in a lesser crystallization of the discharge vessel (20), less burning-off of the electrodes (30), and an improved run-up behavior.

WO 2003/060947 A3